

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1688 – HB 1938

April 11, 2018

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Prohibits the adoption of a rule by a statewide political party or recognized minor party which would preclude an honorably discharged veteran from qualifying as a candidate of that political party based on the number of times the veteran voted during the previous three general elections.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (017229): Deletes and rewrites language of the original bill such that the substantive changes (1) prohibit an honorably discharged veteran from being disqualified as a candidate for any office if the veteran was unable to comply with a statewide or recognized minor political party's rules for candidacy due to a service-related reason and (2) authorize statewide and recognized minor political parties to remove a veteran from their primary election ballot in the event the service-related reason provided does not apply to the veteran.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-13-104, a political party may require by rule that candidates for its nominations be bona fide members of the party.
- The proposed language would prevent an honorably discharged veteran from being disqualified for noncompliance with any rule of a statewide or recognized minor political party due to a service-related reason.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-5-204(a), each qualified candidate's name shall be placed on the ballot as it appears on the candidate's nominating petition unless the executive committee with which a primary candidate filed the original petition determines that the candidate is not qualified.

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- The proposed language would authorize a statewide or recognized minor political party to remove a veteran's name from the primary ballot if it is concluded that the service-related reason provided by the veteran to excuse their noncompliance with party rules for candidacy is not applicable.
- Any fiscal impact to state and local government is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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